support for India's candidature. The Government are steadfast in its pursuit of an independent foreign policy in the service of India's interests.

Passports of the people from J&K

2601. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the passport office has set up troublesome process for issuing the passport to the migrants/residents of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these migrants of J&K are being denied the passport facility even though they are settled in Delhi for the last twenty years; and

(d) whether these migrants are being asked by passport office to submit residential proof of Kashmir when they are settled in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, the residents of Jammu & Kashmir are issued passports as expeditiously as possible, after prescribed security verification by the concerned agencies.

(b) This procedure has been laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the light of security situation in the State.

(c) and (d) No. Migrants living outside Jammu & Kashmir for more than five years are issued passports after normal police verification.

Indian territories claimed by foreign countries

†2602. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the parts of Indian territory which have been claimed by other countries, as their territories;

(b) the name of such countries;

(c) the area of land claimed by such countries; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.